



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hamilton County

City of Cincinnati

**PRESIDENT ISSUES EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR OHIO AS
KATRINA SERVICE CENTER CONTINUES TO ASSIST EVACUEES**

CINCINNATI, OHIO (9/15/05) – President Bush has issued an emergency declaration for all 88 counties in Ohio to relieve any hardships resulting from the influx of evacuees affected by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast. This declaration will provide federal relief and recovery assistance for the Greater Cincinnati region and the state due to the emergency conditions. The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will work with the State of Ohio to coordinate all emergency relief efforts by providing appropriate assistance for all required emergency measures taken.

News of the emergency declaration comes as the Greater Cincinnati Hurricane Katrina Service Center continues to provide direct services to Gulf Coast evacuees at the Lunken Airport Terminal Building, 262 Wilmer Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45226. To date, the Katrina Service Center has served at least 99 cases, which include both families and individuals. At the Center, the Red Cross has served at least 70 single individuals or family units. The Continuum of Care for the Homeless agencies are processing intake applications and conducting screenings. Hurricane Katrina evacuees continue to arrive and meet with representatives from agencies including FEMA, Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS), Red Cross, Veteran's Affairs and the Social Security Administration. The Emergency Disaster Services Unit from the Salvation Army is also onsite providing cold beverages, food, and support measures for Katrina victims and their families, as well as Katrina Service Center representatives.

The daily hours of operation for the Katrina Service Center located at 262 Wilmer Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45226 are:

- Thursday, Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 10:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Beginning September 19, 2005 the Katrina Service Center will be open 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday only.

At the Katrina Service Center, the following services are available to evacuees:

- Expedited applications for Job & Family Services benefits (food stamps, checks, Medicaid) for Hamilton County as well as information for these benefits in the other seven counties.
- Expedited voucher transfer for subsidized housing for persons who were previously living in subsidized housing.
- Housing referral and information and expedited/free police records check required for many landlords.
- Expedited social security benefits – for persons who lost September checks, need to change their address for future checks, or need to replace their Social Security cards.
- Access to Red Cross services/benefits.
- Assistance with FEMA applications.

Anyone who is staying in the Greater Cincinnati area that was displaced by Hurricane Katrina is invited to visit or call the Katrina Service Center during the hours listed above at (513) 871-9666.

The United Way Help Line, 211, is also available for those who are seeking information about donating or volunteering to the local relief effort. Hurricane Katrina evacuees who are in the Greater Cincinnati area may also call this number if they are seeking additional assistance.

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